

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) The UN Secretary General, in a press encounter in Islamabad on 10 March 2001, in response to questions referring to Kashmir and interest of UN to implement resolutions, stated *inter alia* that these resolutions were not under Chapter VII, were not self enforcing, and therefore the cooperation of the two parties, the two parties discussing these issues and finding a peaceful way out, is the route' he recommended.

The UN Secretary General also called for return to the spirit of the Lahore Declaration, and urged the Pakistani leaders to do all in their power to halt the forces of violence and seek political solutions to differences.

Pakistani leaders reiterated their known position.

The Shimla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999 are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan relations and are widely recognized by the international community as the appropriate framework for India-Pakistan relations.

State of Minorities in Pakistan

3686. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "The State of Minorities in Pakistan" appearing in the Times of India dated ,6th February, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would like to take the matter with the United Nations for validation of human rights for the minorities in Pakistan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report titled "The State of Minorities in Pakistan" appearing in the Times of India on 6th February 2001. Discrimination against minority communities in

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Pakistan is built into the very structure of the Pakistan State. This is witnessed in the practice of separate electorates for minority communities, and the use of Pakistan's "anti-blasphemy laws" to prosecute religious minorities in Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Government are of the view that the international community is fully aware of the growing influence of religious extremism and obscurantism in Pakistan, and the consolidation of anti-minority practices and policies of the State.

India's Foreign Policy

[†] 3687. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that our foreign policy is under external pressures;
- (b) whether World Bank is going to contact the State Government directly and the Central Government is being pressurized to make the situation favourable for this purpose;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that foreign countries do not give any importance to India;
- (d) whether such a scenario was seen at the round-table meeting on trade union of the European Union in the past days; and
- (e) whether Government would consider to make the foreign policy effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Constitutional scheme, no State can borrow directly outside the territory of India. Hence there is no question of World Bank establishing direct relations with a State Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Conduct of foreign policy is a dynamic and continuous exercise

[†] Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.